

than a month after the coup. Unfortunately, after passing in committee the legislation was never seen again and never came to the floor of the House for a final vote.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, I am ashamed that the 106th Congress never went on record in opposition to the coup in Pakistan, and I would still like this Congress to do so in light of these latest reports. The ability of the military to seize power away from an elected government should not be tolerated.

The human rights report, released this week by the State Department, which included some documentation collected by the independent group, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, said that, quote, citizens continued to be denied the right to choose or change their government peacefully.

The report also included disturbing news that the Musharraf regime has taken, quote, steps to control the judiciary and to remove itself from judicial oversight. This so-called control over the judiciary could explain the reason why the nation's Supreme Court gave Musharraf 2 years to rule.

Another concern, Mr. Speaker, was that human rights abuses, which have been a problem in Pakistan for years, have not improved, even though goals were set at a conference on human rights at the beginning of last year. I should point out that Musharraf was very critical of human rights abuses that occurred under Sharif's watch, but after more than a year in office, Musharraf has not made any significant changes.

Mr. Speaker, other major human rights violations are also taking place across the border by General Musharraf and his government in India's state of Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan's role in sowing death and destruction has been going on for years, but received world attention in 1999 when Pakistani military leaders, many of whom were involved in that year's coup d'etat, precipitated a major crisis by unleashing an attack against Indian positions in the area of Kargil, along the Line of Control that separates Indian and Pakistani controlled areas of Kashmir. Pakistan's actions were condemned by the United States and the international community, and Pakistan was forced to essentially withdraw. Over the past 2 years, the attacks by Pakistani forces on Indian army positions have continued, causing casualties on both sides and threatening the stability of the entire South Asia region.

Another State Department report, released last year and investigating terrorism around the world, notes that "Kashmiri extremist groups continued to operate in Pakistan, raising funds and recruiting new cadre." It blames these groups for numerous terrorist attacks against civilian targets in India's state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Mr. Speaker, I am also concerned that Pakistan is becoming a breeding

ground for terrorists and the training of terrorist activities. That same State Department report looking at terrorist activities around the world found that the locus of terrorism directed against the United States continued to shift from the Middle East to South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, each of these reports sheds light on what is really going on in Pakistan. It is important that we not only be aware of these situations but also be willing, both the new Congress and the new administration, to call upon the current government in Pakistan to change the situation.

□ 1530

PERMISSION TO MOVE REMARKS

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my 5 minutes follow the 1-minute speech of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA), since we are talking on the same subject.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMMONS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, FREEDOM OF SPEECH, FREEDOM OF PRESS CANNOT BE COM- PROMISED IN UKRAINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to report to my colleagues and to our country indeed on an extremely troubling event that occurred early this morning in the nation of Ukraine, the most important strategic nation in Central Europe today.

What happened was that Ukrainian police, and I am quoting from an international news report, launched an early morning strike on opponents of President Leonid Kuchma, swiftly pulling down a makeshift tent camp which had become a focus of protests against that country's leader.

I might add, having just returned from that country, those demonstrators were peaceful; they were living in freezing temperatures, in tents; and they have a right to assemble; they have a right to speech; they have a right to express their opinion.

The news report goes on, as police tore down the tents, demonstrators tried to wrest back meager belongings which were dumped into lorries. Those resisting were manhandled into the back of unmarked gray trucks. Several protestors waving the blue and yellow Ukrainian national flag threw themselves desperately in front of the vehicles before being dragged away. Four hundred police arrested 100 peaceful demonstrators. The demonstrators, who have braved months of freezing temperatures and alleged harassment

in one of the most potent symbols of resistance against that country's President, vowed not to give up.

Two hundred people, bystanders, watched as officers rapidly dismantled the camp. They were shouting, shame on the police. Most seemed stunned by the action against the peaceful tent dwellers.

I have some pictures here from the international press showing the arrest of peaceful demonstrators.

Now, politically I may not agree with some of those demonstrators in terms of their ideology. Some may be of the far right or the far left. It really does not matter. They have a right to assemble. The government of Ukraine is saying, well, the courts of Ukraine ordered them to be dismantled because they were assembled in a part of the city where they did not have a permit. Having been there, I can say they were large sidewalks. They were not bothering anybody. It was in a median strip.

The question is, why would that government choose to forcibly remove these demonstrators at this time?

Our delegation, having just returned from Ukraine, spent over 2 hours with the President of that country offering the President the help of the West and getting at the bottom of what was causing the demonstrators to assemble, and that is the beheading of a journalist in that country and the possible implication of the President of that nation in that terrible act.

We offered the President advice, saying that transparency in investigation, objectivity in investigation, could raise the confidence level of his own people and, in fact, all freedom-loving peoples. We received his assurance that freedom of assembly would not be marred, that freedom of speech would be able to continue, that freedom of press would be allowed.

We said we would come back here to Washington and offer a resolution in which we would support those principles being maintained in that country as it emerges into a more democratic arrangement, and yet today we hear about this awful act in that country.

Now, as we develop this resolution, as Members of this body, we are going to word a stronger resolution because we believe that regardless of an individual's views, one cannot compromise freedom of assembly; one cannot compromise freedom of speech; one cannot compromise freedom of press.

I would urge in the strongest possible terms the government of that nation to find a central place in which these demonstrators might be allowed to express their opinions. They were not even talking. They were merely staying in tents in cold weather.

The government says, well, there were no toilets in the area. Let me say, respectfully, in many places there are no toilets in that country.